

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01195 151723Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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O R 151635Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7469
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1195

MAPUTO PLEASE PASS AMB. LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: CONVERSATION WITH MUZOREWA

1. GRAHAM AND LOW, ACCOMPANIED BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR TAYLOR,
MET WITH BISHOP MUZOREWA JUNE 13 IN HIS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
OFFICE. THE BISHOP WAS FRIENDLY BUT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE
THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WOULD SUCCEED. IT WAS A
COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT SITUATION, HE SAID, BUT THEY
WERE MAKING GROUND. AFTER GRAHAM BRIEFLY DESCRIBED
THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT, MUZOREWA OBSERVED THAT OUR POSITION
WAS BASED ON FEAR THAT THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT MAY NOT BE ABLE
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TO HAVE FREE ELECTIONS. BUT, HE SAID, THERE HAD BEEN
MANY THINGS SINCE MARCH 3 REGARDING THE DE-ESCALATION
OF HOSTILITIES AND A CEASEFIRE WHICH LEFT HIM
ENCOURAGED. HE SAID HE HOPED THAT "WE CAN SURPRISE YOU"
IN A FEW WEEKS. HIS LAST REMARK WAS NOT CLEAR
BUT APPEARED TO REFER TO SOME DEVELOPMENT REGARDING
DEESCALATION. HE SAID THAT HIS CONFIDENCE WAS NOT

BASED ON FICTION BUT THAT THERE HAD BEEN NUMEROUS MEETINGS IN SALISBURY WITH "BOYS IN THE BUSH."

2. COMMENTING ON THE RECENT KILLING OF CIVILIANS IN THE CHINAMORE TRIBAL TRUST LAND (PRETORIA 3341), HE SAID THAT HE HAD TALKED TO GENERAL WALLS ABOUT THE INCIDENT AND HAD LEARNED THAT THE ACCOUNTS IN THE PRESS WERE NOT ALTOGETHER ACCURATE.

3. WHEN THE SUBJECT OF THE FRONTLINE STATES CAME UP, MUZOREWA REACTED NEGATIVELY. HE SAID THAT AFTER THE FORMATION OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT, HE HAD RECEIVED LETTERS FROM NYERERE AND MACHEL WHICH HAD MADE HIM "MAD." HE RESENTED THE FACT THAT AT THAT STAGE THEY HAD TRIED TO TELL HIM WHAT TO DO.

4. GRAHAM AND LOW BRIEFLY TOUCHED ON THE ADVANTAGES OF AN ALL PARTIES MEETING. MUZOREWA DID NOT REACT STRONGLY BUT ASKED WHY THE PF LEADERS COULD NOT JOIN THEM IN THEIR EFFORTS IN SALISBURY. GRAHAM EXPLAINED THAT NKOMO AND MUGABE, ON THE ONE HAND, BELIEVED THEY COULD NOT TRUST THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION AND ON THE OTHER HAND THEY COULD NOT ABANDON THEIR FOLLOWERS. MUZOREWA SAID THAT THIS WAS JUST AN EXCUSE.

5. AT THE CONCLUSION, MUZOREWA SAID "WE ARE NOT CLOSED
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TO EXAMINING THE TRUTH" AND IF SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE WE HAD SOMETHING WHICH WAS MORE CONVINCING, IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED.

6. COMMENT: MUZOREWA GAVE NO HINT OF ANY DISSATISFACTION WITH THE COURSE OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. HIS COMMENT ON THE CHINAMORE INCIDENT WAS STRIKINGLY APOLOGETIC IN CONTRAST TO THE REPORTED UANC STATEMENT WHICH WAS BANNED (PRETORIA 3341). HE GAVE THE APPEARANCE OF A MAN WELL ENSCONED IN HIS OFFICE. HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, REACT NEGATIVELY TO OUR MISSION AND INDICATED HE WOULD AT LEAST ENTERTAIN FURTHER DIALOGUE.
EDMONDSON

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